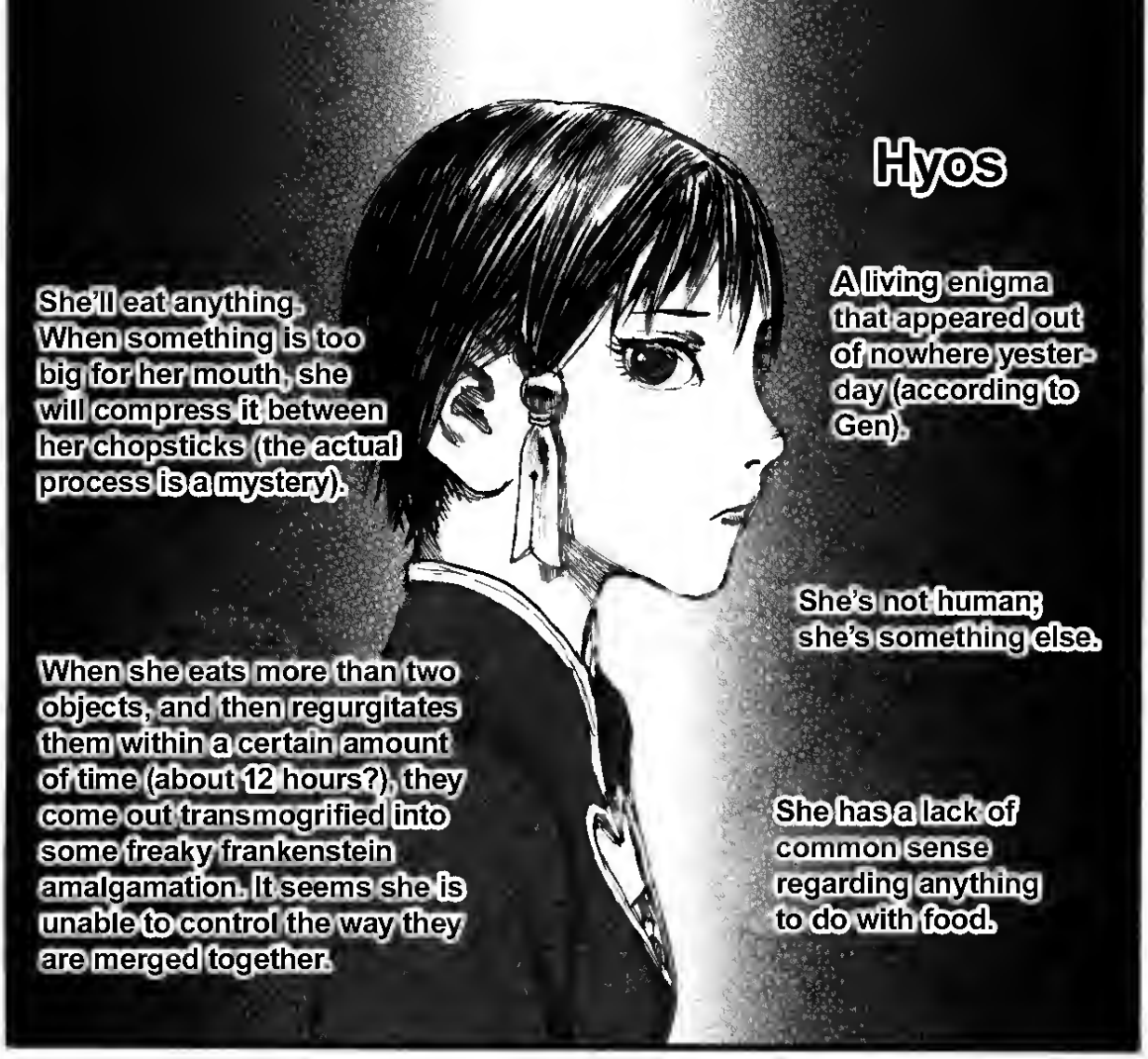
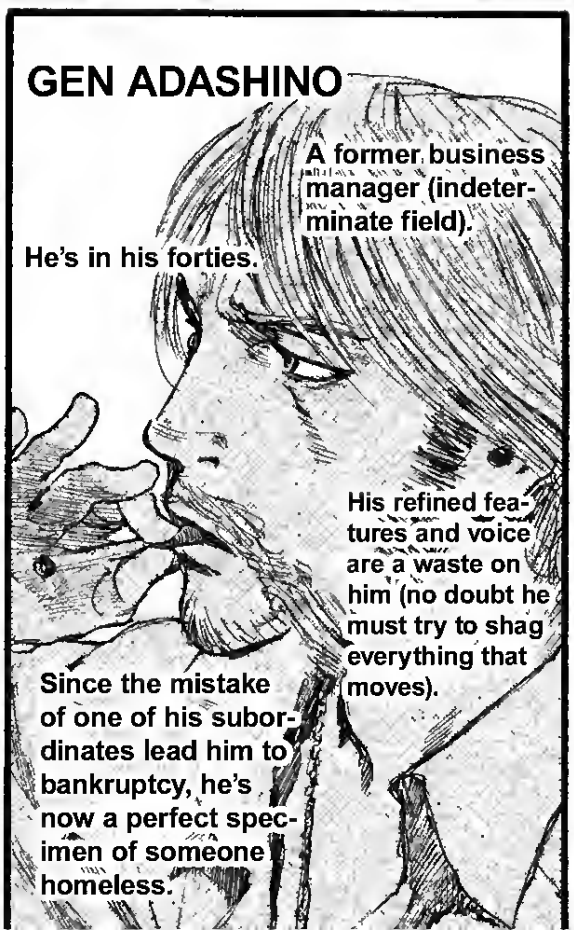
#2

AZOTOBACTER


Hyos
A living enigma that appeared out of nowhere yesterday (according to Gen).
She'll eat anything. When something is too big for her mouth, she will compress it between her chopsticks (the actual process is a mystery).
She's not human; she's something else.
When she eats more than two objects, and then regurgitates them within a certain amount of time (about 12 hours?), they come out transmogrified into some freaky frankenstein amalgamation. It seems she is unable to control the way they are merged together.
She has a lack of common sense regarding anything to do with food.

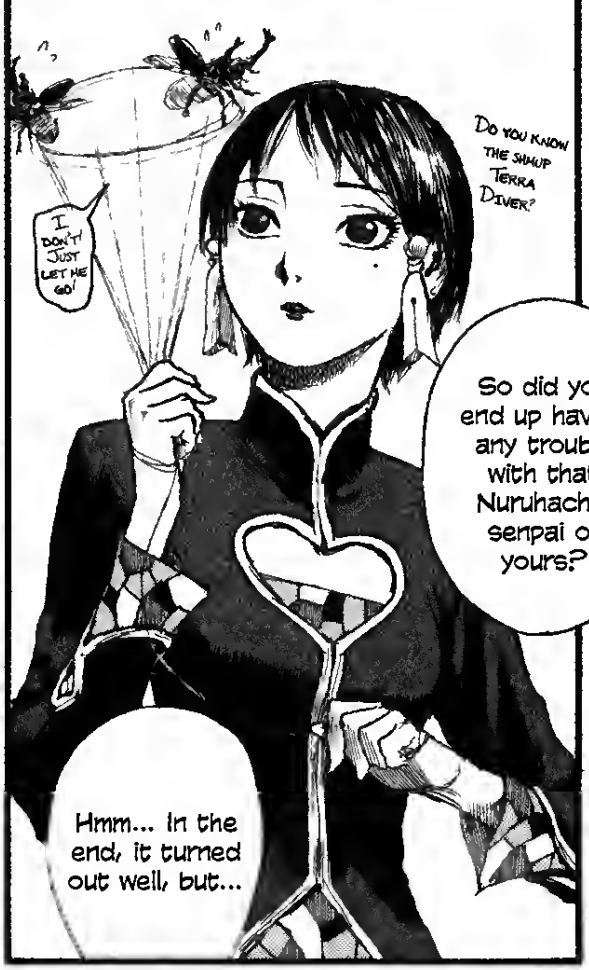
Me-tako, 19 y.o.
THE PRADA PHONES ARE NOT VERY PRACTICAL FOR TEXTING
He looks like my dead brother! (*^_^)Ehehe!

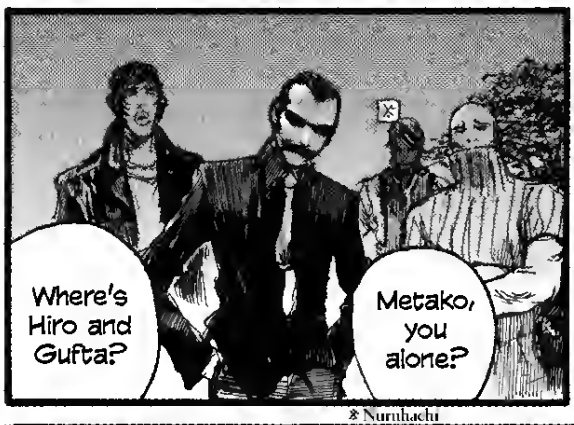
No one, its just character introductions.
Who're you texting?


GEN ADASHINO
A former business manager (indeterminate field).
He's in his forties.
His refined features and voice are a waste on him (no doubt he must try to shag everything that moves).
Since the mistake of one of his subordinates lead him to bankruptcy, he's now a perfect specimen of someone homeless.

Crap! She got me!
By the way... I'm fine with Hyos doing it, but... How much longer are you going to follow me?
Eh ?!
What ?!
You're fine with Hyos ?!
You're fine with that thing pretending to be a thirteen-year-old girl staying with you, even if she's clearly not human!?
Ah...
Sorry... With everything that happened yesterday, I'm kinda losing my marbles...
And you're asking me, the damsel in distress, how much longer she's going to follow you around when you're the ones that turned my friends into some sort of nightmarish creature?!
By the way, you're compensating me for the weed!
It was "Kingdom", a super high quality strain that won second place at the Amsterdam Cannabis Cup!
It came from a certain kingdom!
You shouldn't believe all those urban legends, you know...

When he called me in, I had lost all hope... I was sure that he'd tear my nails off, or send me to work in a brothel, or force me to board the Espoir*...


I DON'T! JUST LET ME GO!
DO YOU KNOW THE SHMUP TERRA DIVER?
So did you end up having any trouble with that Nuruhachi-senpai of yours?
Hmm... In the end, it turned out well, but...



*Nuruhachi

GOYA'S "SATURN" IN THE FLESH...
I summoned the beast and massacred them. It was like taking candy from a baby.
In other words, you're the only one it turned out well for...

*Nuruhachi

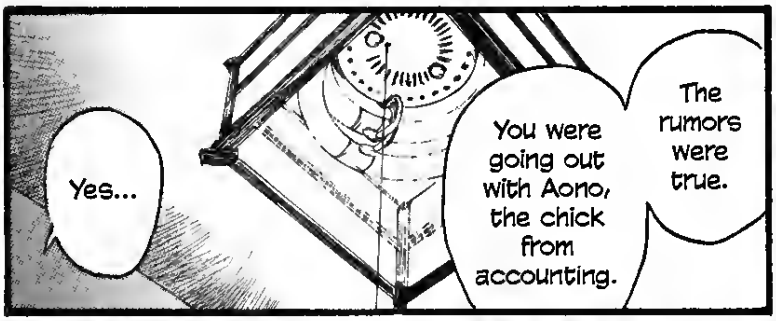
Pff... Isn't it obvious?
You called a private detective? But why? You're broke...
The private detective I hired told me about a place, and that's where we're headed.
I've never set foot there, and I never will!
Are you going back to the homeless shelter for a meal?
Anyway, what's your plan for today?

I asked him to find the hideout of the bastard that put me out of business.
...How old are you, Metako?
Uh... 19.
In life...
There are things that you can't buy with money, but you can always sell them.
I've lived twice as long as you, so let me teach you a good lesson.

And "friendship" is one of them.
ding-dong...
Are you there? It's me, Aono...
Oki-san...
ding-dong...
ding-dong...

I saw you going into this apartment the other day...
I've moved Heaven and Earth to find you.
Uh... I hope you won't think I'm crazy...
But I wanted to see you again so much...
If you're feeling down about what happened...
Maybe I can comfort you some-how.

You're ...
Aono!
SORRY


Yes...
You were going out with Aono, the chick from accounting.
The rumors were true.

So, Shinji...

But tell me...
No need to apologize for that part.

Um...
I'm sorry.

Both of them are no longer employed.
Let me remind you of your position in society, you little prick!
MY COUNTER SKILL WAS ACTIVE.
Sorry! It was reflex...
Why'd you hit me back, you piece of shit?!

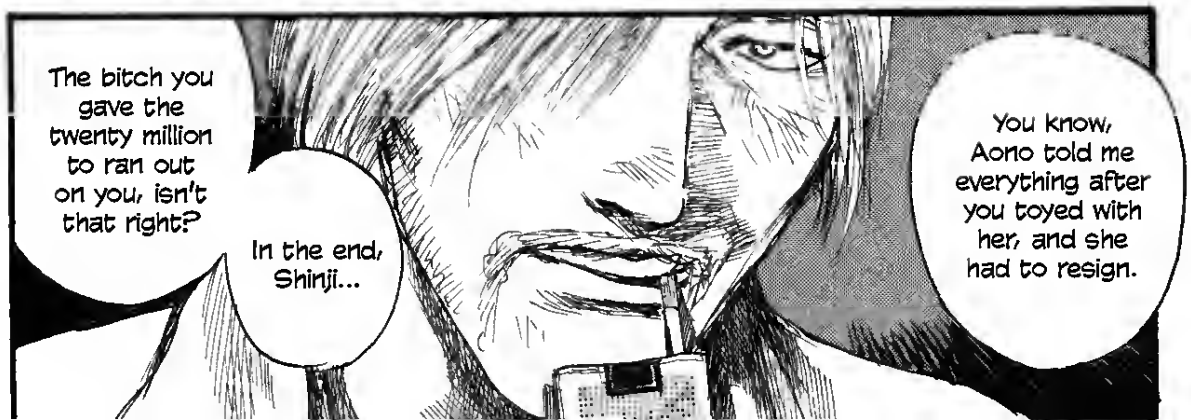
...Why are you making that face that says like, "Where'd the good ol' days go?"
BASED ON HER BREAST SIZE, IT MUST BE THE "PETIT JEWEL F" MODEL..
I never would've thought you'd end up buying a product from Orient Industry.
How rude of you people! Would a sex doll be reading "Good Housekeeping"?

Hm?
Thinking about it...

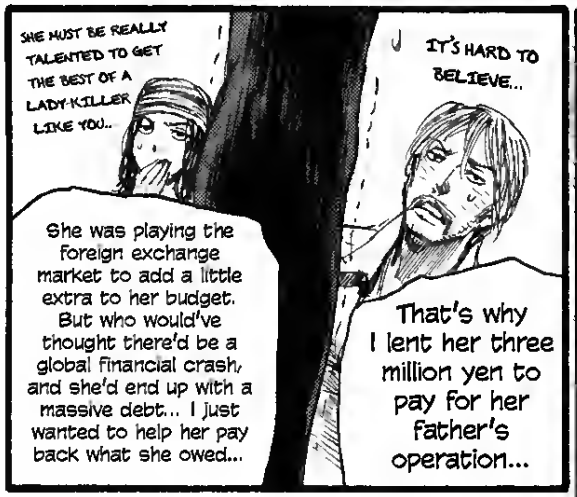
You almost even got lynched by the guys from the tennis club. In light of that...
Back in the college days... you used your babyface as a weapon to seduce all the girls in the neighborhood.

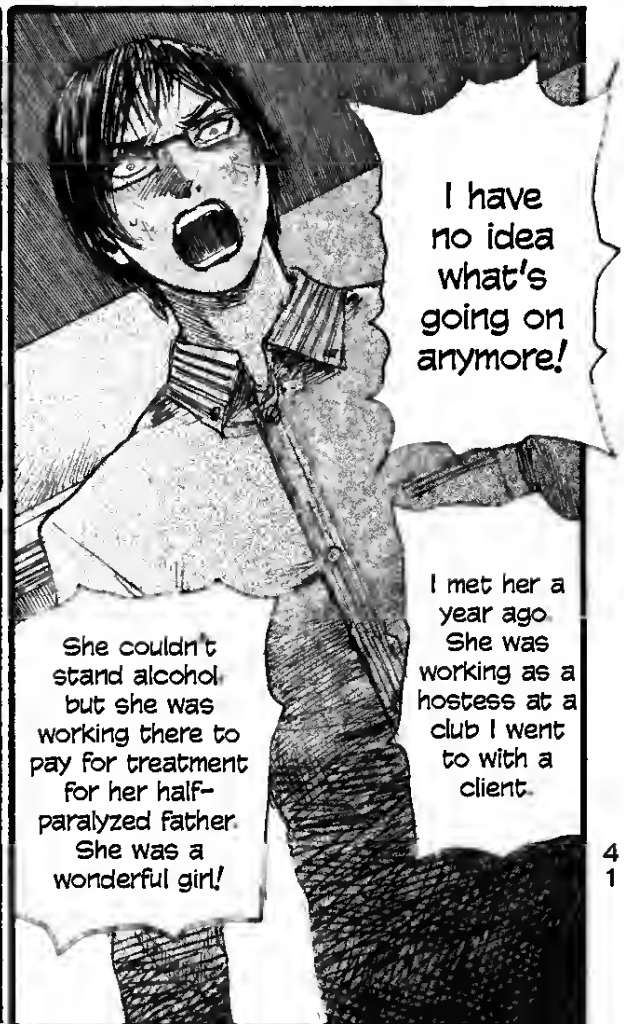
?
My name's Triazole.
Certain circumstances have forced me to seek refuge with Shinji.
Is she related to Hyos somehow?
Hmm... I was thinking the exact same thing.

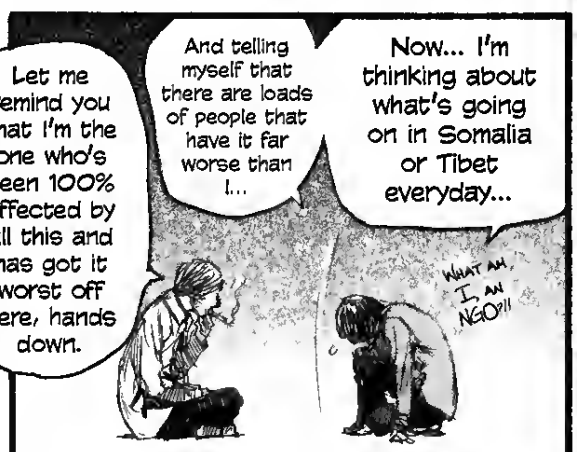
Sure.
...Well, never mind the girl.
Can I smoke here?


The bitch you gave the twenty million to ran out on you, isn't that right?
In the end, Shinji...
You know, Aono told me everything after you toyed with her, and she had to resign.

Wait, hold on.
You really think she'll still have any of the dough left?
What do you expect me to do then?!
I've asked a private detective to track her down.
What're you gonna do?

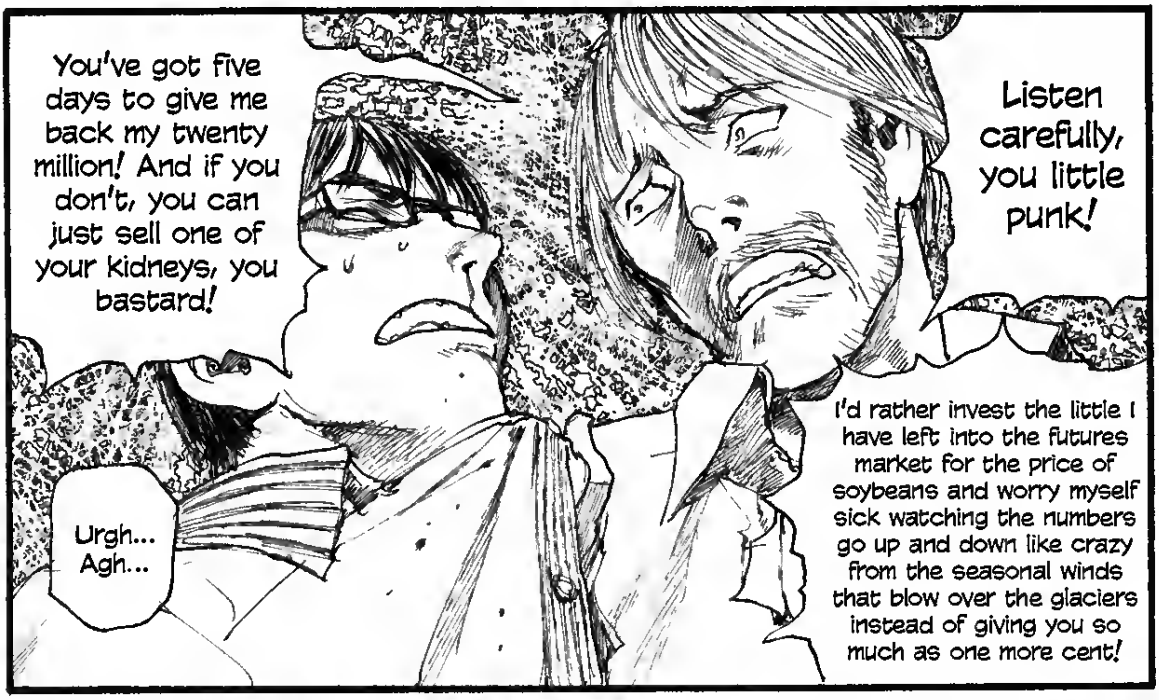

SHE MUST BE REALLY TALENTED TO GET THE BEST OF A LADY-KILLER LIKE YOU..
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE...
She was playing the foreign exchange market to add a little extra to her budget. But who would've thought there'd be a global financial crash, and she'd end up with a massive debt... I just wanted to help her pay back what she owed...
That's why I lent her three million yen to pay for her father's operation...


I have no idea what's going on anymore!
I met her a year ago. She was working as a hostess at a club I went to with a client.
She couldn't stand alcohol but she was working there to pay for treatment for her half-paralyzed father. She was a wonderful girl!


Let me remind you that I'm the one who's been 100% affected by all this and has got it worst off here, hands down.
And telling myself that there are loads of people that have it far worse than I...
Now... I'm thinking about what's going on in Somalia or Tibet everyday...
WHAT AM I, AN NGO?!!

Ah!
SWISH
SWISH
Anyways... I get the gist of it.
And so?
Have you heard any news from your detective?
Yeah, about that, he gave me a call today, and...
She "feeds" like Hyos.
But what did she put in her mouth?
MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH
Apparently, he found someone who looks like that girl at Hachinohe in the Aomori prefecture...
Hachinohe?! But that's miles away!
Well, it's the only lead I have, so...
Are you gonna go all the way there?
Nothing's missing from the room, right?
I'm sure we can work it out!

But I'm broke after paying for the detective and the book!
I bought a travel guide on Amazon.
YURI FUJIKAWA
TWITCH
Lend me 300,000 Yen to cover the cost of travel and other various expenses! As a farewell gift, of sorts...
I'm begging you!
.....
.....
.....


You've got five days to give me back my twenty million! And if you don't, you can just sell one of your kidneys, you bastard!
Listen carefully, you little punk!
Urgh... Agh...
I'd rather invest the little I have left into the futures market for the price of soybeans and worry myself sick watching the numbers go up and down like crazy from the seasonal winds that blow over the glaciers instead of giving you so much as one more cent!

Don't retaliate. It's only making things worse!
AND STOP ACTING LIKE A VIDEOGAME CHARACTER!
Counter skill activate !!
うぉおおおo

Gerolsteiner!
San Benedetto!
Crystal Geyser!
You're just yelling bottled water brands!!
S
Bastard!
S
Die, asshole!
S
G
G
G
Argh!
She's reading "How to Save Money for Weak-Willed Dunkies"
CARELESS
CLUELESS
Aaah, I can't do anything...
A woman is so powerless in the face of two grown men fighting with their pride on the line!※
HELPLESS
※ They kissed it goodbye ages ago.

So even if everybody else turns their backs on him, I can't do that myself.
Ah, I sort of love this kind of story!
I see...

The guy we're going to meet with is the younger brother of a good friend of mine who passed away.
Flashback
Stop it!

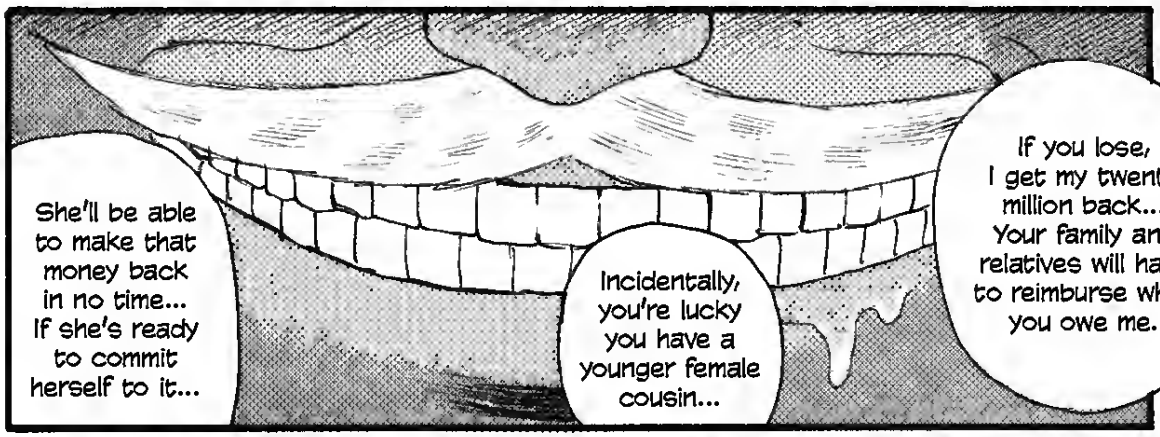
He was a sickly kid, so he was nursed at home for a long time.
My pal asked me to make sure he'd come out all right.

Aaah... this brings back memories ...
Don't go in there, big brother!
If this continues, I'm gonna end up becoming the main character of this story...
Just forget about those people! They're always fighting!
He's just going to hit you again!
But if I don't step in, he's never going to stop beating her...
...That's a strange way of taking of care of someone!
And stop calling them "those people"...
Even if they're not related to us by blood, they're our parents.
Don't worry about me. Go watch the TV, Metako.

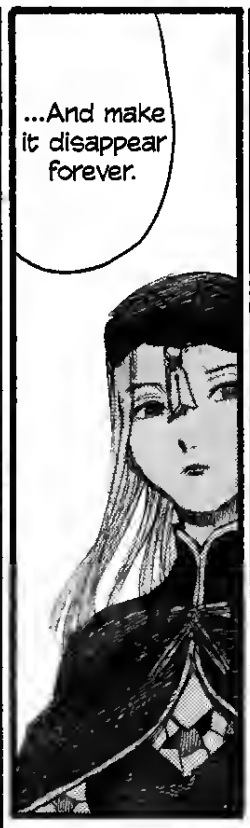
I didn't understand how they could look like they were having so much fun while beating each other up... I even remember the theme song. I can still sing it.
Aaah... It's true... I often used to watch Tom & Jerry.
HALCYON LUNCH RESPECTS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.
My big brother and the TV were my only friends.
I hated that house.
Uh... that's what I'd like to know...
"What's it all supposed to mean, for crying out loud!"
Every time I heard these lyrics, I was wondering...
♪ Mice are living creatures too. Cats are living creatures too... ♪
...And fight like two wild beasts with their lives on the line, is that it?
WHA?
You want us to stop this pointless fistfight...
I HATE MAKING GIRLS CRY...
Whatever... I understand what you're trying to tell us.
It's like I have two big brothers ...
THUMP♡
ポン

We should've just done this from the start.
♪ Here comes Mr. Donkey... Ding dong ding.... Ding dong ding.... With his nice and hot jellyrolls... ♪ (*)
Is that the baker's truck?
Uh...
Listen, Shinji...
I'M HUNGRY.
You're not really in a position to refuse if I tell you to sell one of your kidneys.
...Yes.
YOU SAID THAT ALREADY.
Get it?
YAAWN...
♪ There is something for everyone~ Ding dong ding~ ♪
♪ How about a chocolate bread~ ♪
I WONDER IF WE'LL HAVE TO PAY ROYALTIES TO THE RIAA FOR THIS...
♪ Filled with sweet beans~ ♪

Something as simple as rock-paper-scissors.
So we're going to play a little game instead.
But to be honest, I have no intention of going that far.
I don't know who you'd be able to sell it to in the first place.


She'll be able to make that money back in no time... If she's ready to commit herself to it...
Incidentally, you're lucky you have a younger female cousin...
If you lose, I get my twenty million back... Your family and relatives will have to reimburse what you owe me.

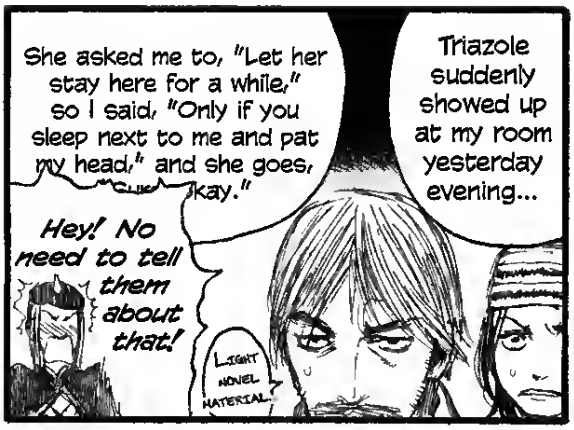
Since you've got Triazole at your side, I'm sure you understand what I mean...

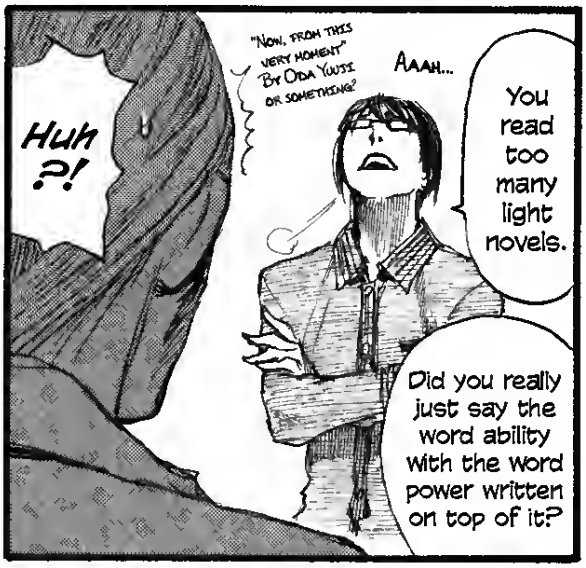

...And make it disappear forever.

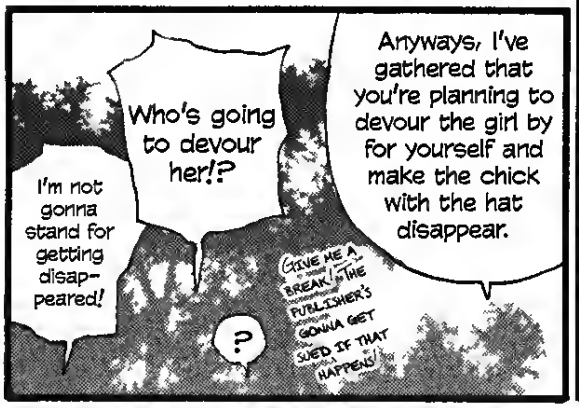
She has the power ability to devour pretty much anything...

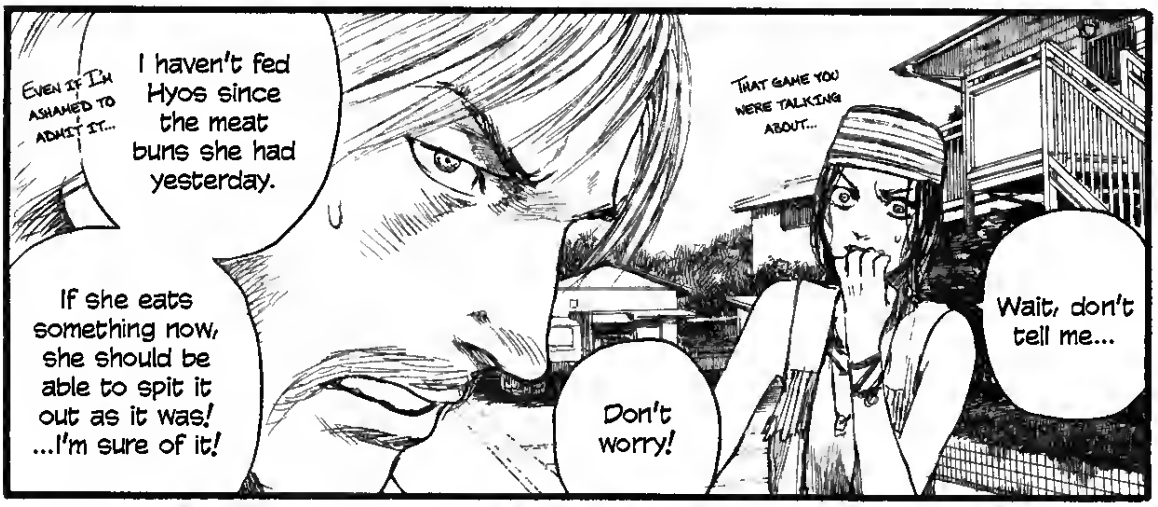
This little one's name is Hyos. She's a little weird...
CUT THE CRAP!

...Senpai.


She asked me to, "Let her stay here for a while," so I said, "Only if you sleep next to me and pat my head," and she goes, "Okay."
Triazole suddenly showed up at my room yesterday evening...
Hey! No need to tell them about that!
LIGHT NOVEL MATERIAL


Huh?!
"NOW, FROM THIS VERY MOMENT" BY ODA YUUSI OR SOMETHING?
AAAH...
You read too many light novels.
Did you really just say the word ability with the word power written on top of it?


Who's going to devour her!?
I'm not gonna stand for getting disappeared!
Anyways, I've gathered that you're planning to devour the girl by for yourself and make the chick with the hat disappear.
?
GIVE ME A BREAK, THE PUBLISHER'S GONNA GET SUED IF THAT HAPPENS!

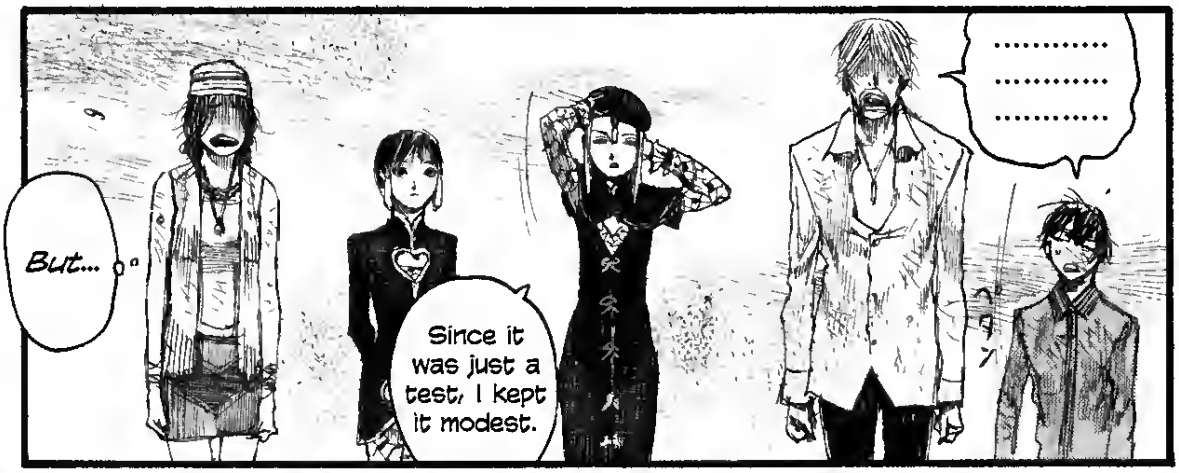

EVEN IF I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT...
I haven't fed Hyos since the meat buns she had yesterday.
If she eats something now, she should be able to spit it out as it was! ...I'm sure of it!
THAT GAME YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT...
Wait, don't tell me...
Don't worry!

I'm going to ask the little one to devour Shinji.

Since nothing can come out of explaining things to that idiot, I'll give you a quick rundown.
Listen, Triazole... OR WHATEVER...

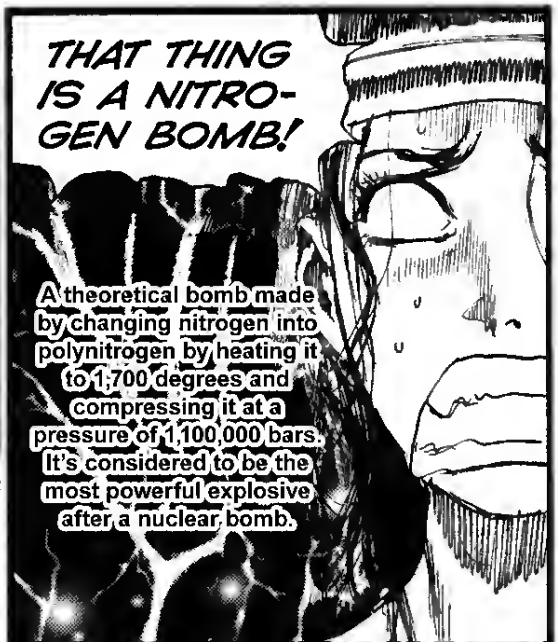
Y'see...
Sometimes, the most helpless person, the worst human wreck...
is blessed with a partner for some reason and is able to redeem himself thanks to them.
What's the purpose of this little game?
Pervert Beyond Redemption
This feels like some sort of battle of the lewd...
And you, you will use your powers to protect him.
I only wish to put that to the test.
It must've been written somewhere that Shinji would meet you. Trash like him has a knack of attracting people like you.
Et tu, Brute?
Eh?
ZWUM
BLUURGHHH!
SPLARSH

SHUT UP ALREADY!
It's something I made at 1,700 degrees by compressing it under 1,100,000 bars of pressure
FREEDOM!
What's that?
But... don't you know that throwing up is quite hard on the stomach and esophagus?
WHAT A NICE COLOR...
I created it inside my body from what I "ate" earlier at Shinji's.
S... Sure...
?
Shall I?
If you like, I can give you a demonstration.
Ah!
Wait...
But that's...
1,700 degrees and 1,100,000 bars of pressure?


.....
.....
.....
Since it was just a test, I kept it modest.
But... ◦°

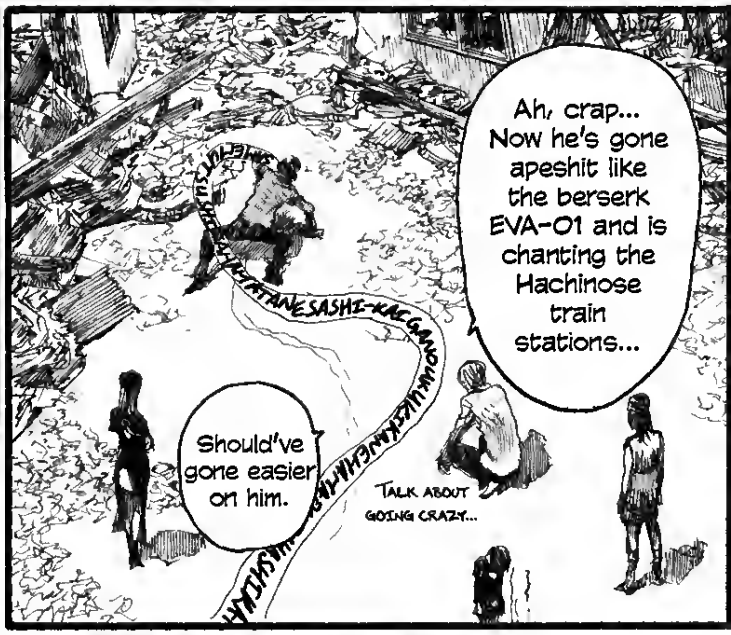
I'll show you what it does at full power...
WAAAAH! WAAAAH! WAAAAH!

Adashino -san...
Is it?

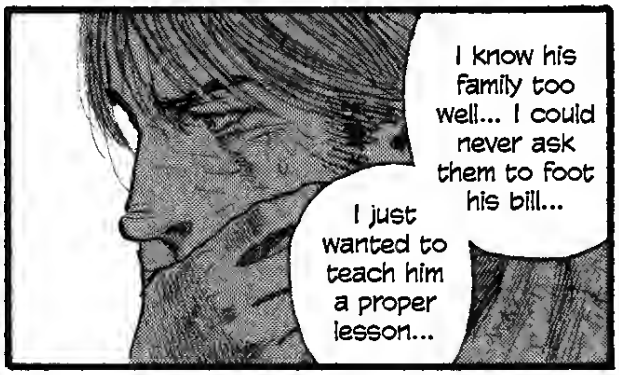

THAT THING IS A NITRO-GEN BOMB!
A theoretical bomb made by changing nitrogen into polynitrogen by heating it to 1,700 degrees and compressing it at a pressure of 1,100,000 bars. It's considered to be the most powerful explosive after a nuclear bomb.

NAKAWAWASHIROHONHACHINOHEKONAKANOMUTSUMENATOSHIROGANE

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
Uhhh...
You all right, Hyos?
You're wobbling like Minister Nakagawa...
Atta boy
Come
Whine whine


Ah, crap... Now he's gone apeshit like the berserk EVA-01 and is chanting the Hachinose train stations...
Should've gone easier on him.
Talk about going crazy...

ゴゴ
In...
Me
Side
ゴゴ
HUNGER LEVEL CRITICAL


I know his family too well... I could never ask them to foot his bill...
I just wanted to teach him a proper lesson...

Aaah, fuck!
What am I gonna do?

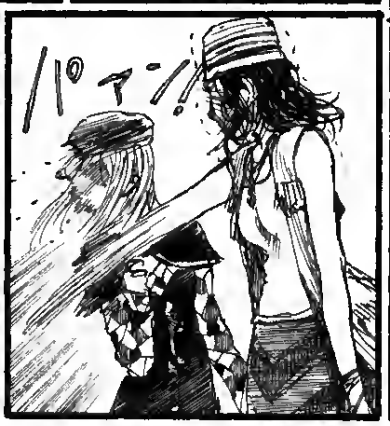
SLUMP
MUNCH MUNCH
OH, DEAR...
Hey... Hyos!
MUNCH MUNCH
Why did you do that?! There are still two pages left until the end of the chapter!

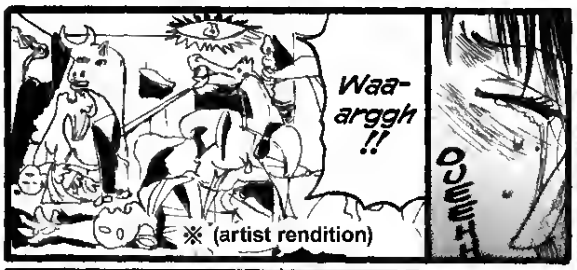
"Brothers" ...?

Give me back my brothers !!
DAMN, I REALLY SAID IT!

ぽわーん
BURP
How are we supposed to end this chapter now?!
Don't think you'll get away with whatever you want just because you're a strange little mystery girl.
And stop with that stupid satisfied smile!
THIS REALLY ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME!

.....
.....
What are you staring at?!


パァン!


Waa-arggh !!
※ (artist rendition)
GUEEH

GUEE

Come on, spit them out!
ドボッ!
HGLWNAFH...

That was so bad, it even made me throw up!
GUE
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Hm...
Nn
Make an effort!
Again!
Again!
Again!
Again!

Hm...
Try again!

Waaah! What the hell is that?!
※ (artist rendition)

Translation notes

p033
"It came from a certain kingdom" : an allusion to the urban legend stating that cannabis plants were cultivated in the compound of the Mutsugorou Doubutsu ("The animal kingdom of Mutsugorou"), a theme park located in Hokkaido.

p034
"Terra Diver" : a scrolling shooter arcade game released by Raizing in 1996, in which one of the weapons, the laser-web, is shaped as a cone. The beetle that Hyos is keeping on a leash is also a reference to another shmup, Mushihime-sama, developed by Cave.
"Espoir" : a reference to an episode of the manga "Kaiji", that covers the theme of games of chance.

p039
"Orient Industry" : a company that produces silicone sex love dolls.

p043
"Yuri Fujikawa" : member of the city council of Hachinohe. Her appealing look drew the attention of the public and media.

p047
"Here comes Mr. Donkey.." : lyrics from the song "Uri no Rouba-san" (the baker donkey), used by travelling salesmen (whose goods were carried by donkeys or horses) to announce their coming.

p049
"Now, from this very moment" : aka "Genzai, kono Shunkan kara" - while this might sound like a light novel title, it' s actually a song written for a 1991 coffee commercial.

p050
"Et tu, Brute?" : the last words of Caesar, during his assassination.

p055
The late Minister Shouichi Nakagawa was known for his drinking habit.

Τρανσλατιον: Ικκψυσαν, Λαικα
Τψπεσεττινγ: σηαδεσ7000, βυν
ΡΑΩ: ειτο